

Family Perspectives



Marriage and Family
Ministry

Catholic Diocese
of Cleveland

Ordinary Time I

17 January 2021 – Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

24 January 2021 – Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

31 January 2021 – Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7 February 2021 – Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

14 February 2021 – Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time



ORDINARY
time

17 January 2021 - Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Both Samuel and the two disciples from the gospel begin a journey that will change the trajectory of their lives and bring them to the limits of their abilities, demanding all who they are and even, in the case of Andrew and Peter, their very lives. Very often in family life, we are asked to sacrifice for the sake of taking care of our family members. We recall in the Gospel today that we do not walk on the path of sacrifice alone. Though we cannot see where our own journey of faith is leading, we can be assured of the presence and friendship of the same divine companion walking ahead of us to show the way. How do you experience the voice of God calling you?



Universal Prayer

For all who serve as teachers and educators, may they be inspired to provide the best instruction, care, and support to their students, especially during this challenging time.

24 January 2021 - Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus approaches his first disciples, Simon and Andrew, with an interesting proposition: leave your fishing nets and lives by the sea and turn your attention toward catching people in the net of God's love. Jesus is being a spiritual mentor to Simon and Andrew in this gospel passage. The responsorial psalm implores, "teach me your ways, O Lord." Who have been the spiritual mentors and guides who have helped you learn the ways of God? How do you live our spirituality in daily family life?



Universal Prayer:

For those imprisoned by addiction, through the grace of God may they be freed from illness of body, mind and spirit.

31 January 2021 - Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

In the first reading God promises to raise up a prophet to speak his words to the people. Who are our modern-day prophets who call us to walk in the ways of the Lord? Being 'Domestic Church' calls us to walk the prophetic way of Christ. This does not come without trials and temptations. The psalmist in today's responsorial psalm invites us, even as we encounter our own trials and temptations, to "harden not your hearts." How is God calling you as a family to trust in his goodness?



Universal Prayer:

For all who suffer from mental illness, may they know the love of God that surrounds them continually, and be sustained in faith and hope.

7 February 2021 - Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus's day in Capernaum is punctuated by healings. Last week we read in the gospel of how, while at synagogue, he frees a man from an unclean spirit by rebuking the spirit. In the first reading Job laments, "My days . . . come to an end without hope." Have you ever found yourself in a similar position of despair? What sustains your family life through challenging times? Where do you turn for healing and strength? In the gospel, Jesus rises early and goes off "to a deserted place" to pray. Where and when do you find silence and solitude to be with God?



Universal Prayer:

For all families, that in their daily lives, they may find moments of solitude and silence to dwell with the Lord in prayer.

14 February 2021 - Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

In the gospel reading today, Jesus reaches out to touch the leper, one who had been rendered ritually impure or "unclean" due to his skin infection. This gospel story is one of mercy, acceptance, compassion, and empathy. We hear that Jesus is "moved with pity" at the plight of the leper and reaches out to touch him, breaking the Jewish law of his time. How as Christians do we treat our family members with mercy, acceptance, compassion and empathy? Throughout his life, Jesus seeks out and draws near to those on the margins. How do we respond to those in our family who are on the margins of society or in our own family unit?

Universal Prayer:

For families who lack food, water, shelter, and clothing, may those who have an abundance willingly share with those who have nothing . . .